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Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 OMB-01 ACDA-12 /091 W
----------007343 220421Z /21
R 210841Z JUL 78
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1433
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC HONO HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2224

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CH, VN, PEPR
SUBJ: PRC PROPOSES VICE-MINISTERIAL TALKS WITH VIETNAM

REF: PEKING 1767

1. CHINA'S CALL JULY 19 FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SRV AT THE LEVEL OF VICE FOREIGN MINISTERS IS BEING VIEWED IN PEKING'S DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY AS A PARTIAL RETREAT BY PEKING FROM ITS INCREASINGLY INTRANSIGENT POSTURE VIS-A-VIS VIETNAM. WHILE THE CHINESE DIPLOMATIC NOTE, PUBLISHED BY NCNA THE SAME DAY, CONTINUES STANDARD PRC ACCUSATIONS OF VIETNAMESE "PERSECUTION" OF ETHNIC CHINESE AND OF INTERFERENCE WITH SHIPBORNE REPATRIATION, THE LEVEL OF INVECTIVE OF BOTH THE NOTE AND THE ACCOMPANYING NCNA COMMENTARY IS NOTABLY BELOW THAT SEEN IN RECENT WEEKS. IN ADDITION, THE MERE OFFER
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OF HIGH-LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS IS AN ABOUT-FACE FROM THE POSITION ADOPTED BY PEKING IN ITS FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT OF JUNE 9 (REFTEL), WHEN IT REJECTED A SIMILAR VIETNAMESE PROPOSAL AS "TOTALLY FALSE AND MEANINGLESS".

2. THE TWO SIDES, OF COURSE, REMAIN AS FAR APART AS EVER ON BOTH THE DEFINITION OF THE PROBLEM AND THE MEANS OF

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RESOLVING IT. ANY TALKS BETWEEN VICE MINISTERS ARE AS LIKELY AS THE ON-GOING TALKS IN HANOI TO BECOME HUNG UP ON THE QUESTION OF THE NATIONALITY OF THE WOULD-BE REFUGEES AND THE PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED IN THEIR REPATRIATION. THUS THE NEW PROPOSAL SEEMS TO REPRESENT LESS A STEP TOWARD AN EASING OF TENSIONS THAN A REALIZATION THAT THE PRC'S IMAGE ABROAD HAS SUFFERED FROM ITS APPARENT INTRANSIGENCE, AND THAT SOME GESTURE WAS NEEDED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT VIETNAM, NOT CHINA, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CURRENT DEADLOCK. WOODCOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 21 jul 1978
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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